

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION USNATO BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 0623

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR YO AU

SUBJ: YUGOSLAV-AUSTRIAN RELATIONS

1. IN FEB 10 CONVERSATION AUSTRIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR RUDOLPH BOGNER TOLD EMBOFF THAT LITTLE HAD COME OF CONTACTS BETWEEN AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS AND YUGOSLAV COUNTERPARTS DURING JAN 31-FEB 6 IPU CONFERENCE IN BELGRADE. AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR OTTO HOSTED LUNCHEON WITH POSSIBLE STIMULATION OF FRUITFUL DIALOGUE IN MIND, BUT ACCORDING TO BOGNER AUSTRIAN LEGISLATORS WERE VERY RESERVED IN THEIR APPROACH.

2. ONE POINT WHICH BOGNER FELT AUSTRIAN VISITORS DID USEFULLY MAKE REGARDED AUSTRIAN PRESS TREATMENT OF YUGOSLAVIA. AUSTRIANS COUNTERED YUGOSLAV COMPLAINTS ON THIS BY POINTING OUT THAT THEY DIDN'T HAVE TO READ AUSTRIAN PRESS TO GET SUCH INFORMATION-- THE WIRE SERVICES AND OTHER EUROPEAN NEWSPAPERS, PARTICULARLY FRG AND FRENCH, PROVIDED THAT IN FULL MEASURE.

3. THERE IS SOME PROGRESS NOW BEING MADE ON THE "CULTURAL
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PROPERTIES" QUESTION, ACCORDING TO BOGNER, AND ONCE THE MARCH

CARINTHIAN ELECTIONS ARE OUT OF THE WAY AN AGREEMENT WHICH WILL
AT LEAST BE A FIRST STEP APPEARS POSSIBLE.

4. PERHAPS MOST INTERESTING OBSERVATION BOGNER MADE CONCERNED
WHAT HE SAW A COLLAPSE OF YUGOSLAV EFFORT TO INTERNATIONALIZE
THE SLOVENEMINORITIES ISSUE. THIS HE SAID HAD APPARENTLY HAPPENED
FOR TWO REASONS. FIRST, TOO MANY OF THE OTHER COUNTRIES
TO WHICH THE YUGOSLAVS WERE TURNING FOR SUPPORT HAD THEIR OWN IN-
CIPIENT MINORITY PROBLEMS AND DIDN'T WANT TO SEE THAT
CAULDRON STIRRED. AND SECOND, TRYING TO SELL "PEACELOVING
LITTLE NEUTRAL AUSTRIA" (BOGNER'S WORDS) AS A PERSECUTING
MONSTER WORTHY OF INTERNATIONAL CENSURE SIMPLY WASN'T
CREDIBLE. WHEN THE YUGOSLAVS FOUND THEY WERE THE ONES
LOSING FROM THAT PITCH, THEY BACKED OFF.
TOON

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